

Testimony of Sarah Uhl
121 Linden St., New Haven, CT 06511
Before the Environment Committee
Public Hearing March 7, 2012

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 5116, An Act Requiring
Labeling of Food Packaging that Contains Bisphenol-A

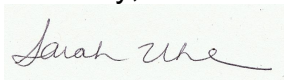
Dear Senator Meyer and Representative Roy, and Members of the Environment Committee:

Having worked to support this Committee's 2009 legislation addressing BPA contamination of reusable food and beverage containers and infant formula and baby food cans and jars, I was very happy to learn that Connecticut is poised to take another step toward reducing public exposure to this endocrine disrupting chemical. House Bill 5116 would give the public more information about the types of food packaging that contain BPA, enabling people to make better-informed purchasing decisions. Since 2009, as the public has learned more about the degree to which our food supply (particularly canned foods) is contaminated with BPA, seven states have joined Connecticut in phasing out BPA from some food containers (MA, MD, MN, NY, VT, WA, WI). Many corporations are also taking steps to remove BPA from some or all of their food packaging, including Heinz, General Mills, and Sigg. Just today, I learned that the Campbell's Soup Company has agreed to transition away from cans containing BPA.

While studying for my Master's of Environmental Science degree at Yale during the past year and a half, I have had a chance to more fully examine the scientific evidence regarding the health effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals and BPA in particular. Academic interest in the topic continues to grow, and the more studies I read, the more convinced I become that this issue deserves the attention of lawmakers. While HB 5116 would not directly restrict BPA, I believe that it would help to speed up the shift toward BPA-free containers. The bill would also give purchasers of food for young children, pregnant women, and people undergoing chemotherapy (all populations for which BPA exposure is particularly concerning) more information with which to avoid the chemical.

Thank you very much for your work on this issue, and for considering my testimony in support of HB 5116.

Sincerely,



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